

Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures



TITLE:

CHIMNEY FIRE OPERATING PROCEDURE – RESIDENTIAL DWELLING

#506

EFFECTIVE DATE:

03/18/2015

DATE AMENDED:

09/18/2015

REVIEW DATE:

03/18/2016

APPROVED BY:

Chief Steve Kelly

This Operating Procedure shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until superseded.

PURPOSE

Establish an Operating Procedure (OP) for chimney firefighting operations in residential dwellings.

These are not rules, but Procedures to be used under the best conditions with the optimum resources available. It is important to note that judgment and discretion must be used on all functions, activities and operations of the department.

SCOPE

These procedures are designed to provide a framework for safe operations when dealing with chimney fires in residential dwellings within Miami Township.

PROCEDURES

A. Command

1. Establish Incident Command per the *Incident Command Operating Procedure #301*.
2. The District 26 supervisor or other arriving command personnel shall assume Incident Command upon their arrival.

B. First Due Engine Company

1. Engine apparatus shall normally be positioned on the Alpha/Bravo or Alpha/Delta Corner, but in a way that does not hinder the positioning of the aerial apparatus.
2. The company officer shall complete an initial size-up and thorough on-scene report over the primary channel. A 360-degree walk around and additional details shall be given over the assigned fire ground channel.
3. The company officer shall ensure that the Incident Command System (ICS) is established.
 - a. If no command officer is on the scene, the company officer shall assume the role of the Incident Commander. This may be in the fast-attack mode to ensure the safe and effective operation of his crew.
4. Monitor for the presence of carbon monoxide (CO) in the dwelling and ensure all occupants have exited the building. Maintain proper use of SCBA until CO level has been established and determined to be within an acceptable limit per the *Post-Fire Air Monitoring Operating Procedure #703*.
5. Confirm there is no extension within the dwelling or in any enclosed space within the dwelling beyond the fire place.
 - a. Check the attic, walls, underside (if applicable) and roof area adjacent to the chimney thoroughly for fire extension with the thermal imaging camera.



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

CHIMNEY FIRE OPERATING PROCEDURE – RESIDENTIAL DWELLING

#506

- b. If there is extension of fire within the dwelling, the Incident Commander shall upgrade the incident to the appropriate structure fire response.
6. Consider advancing an attack line to the entrance of the dwelling in case the fire is larger than anticipated.
7. Position a salvage cover, preferably canvas, in front of the fireplace or stove. Attempt to isolate the fire by closing the doors to the firebox/stove and damper (flue), if possible.
8. Coordinate extinguishment with the roof division.

C. First Due Aerial Company Or Second Due Engine Company

1. Access the roof of the building near the chimney.
2. Confirm that there is no extension to the exterior sheathing of the building adjacent to the chimney.
3. Whenever possible and applicable, open/remove the vent cap atop the chimney and perform a visual inspection.
4. Coordinate with the engine company inside the building for proper extinguishment.
5. Set up for Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV).

D. Extinguishment

1. The fire box shall be emptied in a safe manner.
 - a. Contents of the firebox shall be removed into a metal bucket or a noncombustible container and placed outside and away from the building, preferably on the driveway. Ensure the material taken outside is extinguished fully before leaving the scene.
2. If extinguishment of any fire in the firebox is necessary, it must be done only as needed using a dry chemical extinguisher
 - a. When extinguishing the fire in the firebox, the damper (flue) should be open.
 - b. A dry chemical extinguisher may be used, but care must be taken to limit the spread the chemical agent within the building.
3. Extinguishment may require personnel to discharge an extinguisher through the firebox opening using a draft from the bottom. This method can create high amounts of dust.
 - a. PPV may be required to create an air draft.
 - b. Personnel must be placed throughout the building to ensure there is no fire extension while using PPV.
4. Chimney bombs may be required to be dropped from the top of the chimney.
 - a. Coordination must take place between crews working within the building and those working on the roof.



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

CHIMNEY FIRE OPERATING PROCEDURE – RESIDENTIAL DWELLING

#506

E. General

1. Inform the occupant/building owner to have the fireplace/stove and chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional service prior to using the fireplace/stove based upon the recommendation of their insurance provider.